

The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1908.

Persons leaving the city for the summer should order the Times-Dispatch mailed to them. Price, 50 cents per month.

THE TAX QUESTION.

In a recent article on the subject of taxation we took occasion to say that many men in Richmond, some of them young men with good incomes, managed under our present system to escape taxation altogether. This statement is verified and rendered all the more significant by the figures which we have recently procured from the Commissioner of the Revenue and the City Treasurer. These reports show that in the year 1902 the poll tax was assessed against 22,000 persons, only 3,500 of whom paid the tax prior to December 1st, the other being returned delinquent.

This shows that the assessment was about as thorough as could be expected. According to the last census Richmond has a population of 55,000, and with an assessment on the head tax account of 22,000 it would appear that practically all males twenty-one years of age and over were reached by the Commissioner of the Revenue. But is a poor showing, indeed, for our system of collection that only 3,500 of these were brought to book by the Treasurer prior to December 1st.

In saying this we do not mean to criticize Treasurer Phillips, for after talking with him on the subject we are satisfied that he did everything in his power to make the collections. But his task is a most difficult one. He sent out his reminders, but the delinquents paid no attention to the notices, for the penalty is so small that it made no difference to them whether or not they paid prior to December 1st. Some of them paid up before the 1st of June following, but most of the accounts were carried over to the delinquent list to be collected, if at all, three years after due day. In the meantime the delinquents may die or move away, and even if they are finally brought to book by the collector of delinquent taxes, the penalty which they pay is so small that they don't mind it. Could any business man in Richmond carry on his affairs successfully under such a rule? Could he afford to let his mills run for three years before even presenting them for payment? Yet that is the rule under which the State of Virginia collects her delinquent "taxes." Nor must it be inferred that these delinquents are assessed only to the amount of the poll tax. The great bulk of them are assessed on personal property, in amounts generally small for each tax-payer, but in the aggregate very large.

It is a slipshod system, and it sadly needs revision. It has been suggested, and the suggestion seems to us to be a good one, that the penalty should be largely increased so as to make it a consideration for small tax-payers to pay up before the expiration of the time limit.

We pause here to remark that the assessment on personal property in Richmond city makes a most creditable exhibit. The books show that for every \$100 worth of real estate assessed, there is an assessment on the personal property account of \$72.72. We commend this exhibit to the proper officials of the city of Norfolk.

In concluding this article we take occasion to make a more concise statement concerning the assessment of stocks in the State of Virginia, as some of our readers may have been misled by statements made by us and also by our Norfolk contemporary, the Dispatch, in that connection. In speaking of the assessment of stocks we should have explained what we have more than once stated in these columns, that in the case of domestic corporations, that is to say any corporations whose property lies within the State of Virginia, there is no assessment of stock against the individual holder when the property is assessed against the corporation. This is true also, as we stated at the time, of stocks of Virginia railroad corporations. Railroads are assessed on their earnings, and in all such cases stocks held by individuals are exempt.

But Virginia does assess, or attempt to assess, stocks in foreign corporations held by citizens of this State. We believe that that system is wrong, and it is questionable if it would stand the test if brought before the courts face to face with the Constitution, Section 158 of article XIII, provides that "all property, except as hereinafter provided, shall be taxed; all taxes, whether State, local, or municipal, shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax."

rate of taxation for stocks, another for bonds, another for real estate, and so on. But it is plainly provided that upon the same class of subjects the tax shall be uniform.

How, then can the State exempt some stocks from taxation and make a levy upon others?

A VEXATIOUS QUESTION.

It is reported from Charlotte, N. C., that as the result of an order of the school commissioners of that city, compelling the daily reading of the Bible in the public schools, it is probable that not a single child of Catholic parents will attend the next session of the Charlotte public schools. "The Catholics hold," says the correspondent, "that it is unjust to compel their children to listen to the reading of the Protestant version of the Bible in schools supported by public taxes."

This is a vexatious question. No one contends that the Bible ought to be taught as a text-book in the public schools, for that would be sectarian instruction, and denominations would naturally be at cross purposes as to what peculiar doctrine should be taught. But Archbishop Magee has pointed out that even the reading of the Bible without comment is sectarian teaching. "For I ask, in the first place," says he, "what Bible is to be read in the schools? Is the Bible to be read from the Authorized or the Roman Catholic version? If from the former, it is decidedly sectarian as regards the Roman Catholics, who will not accept that version, and if from the latter, it is sectarian as regards the Protestants. Is it to be from the Old Testament and New Testament? Then it is sectarian as regards the Jew; and if from the Old Testament only, then it is sectarian as regards the Christian, who demands the New Testament also. You cannot read the Bible in the school without teaching certain opinions about the Bible held by different sects according to the nature of the Bible you use."

That is a perfectly plain proposition, no matter from what source it comes, and its argument cannot be disputed. Suppose, in the Charlotte case, the Roman Catholics were in control of the city's affairs, and should insist upon having the Roman Catholic version of the Bible read in the schools. There would be an indignant protest from the Protestants, and no doubt about it. If the Jews were in control and should insist that the Old Testament be read, to the exclusion of the New, there would be a protest from both Catholics and Protestants. If Catholics and Protestants could agree and should insist upon having the New Testament read, there would naturally be a protest from the members of the Jewish church.

And so it goes. It is a serious question. The children of this country ought to be taught the Bible. It is the book of books. From whatever point of view, it is interesting and instructive, and no man's education is complete without it. It is valuable as a book of history and as a book of literature, and it is invaluable as a book of morals, a book of religion and as a rule of conduct. But in view of denominational differences, it cannot be used as a text-book in the public schools without causing all sorts of friction and clash. This is no fault of the Bible itself, but of the public school system.

THE ERIE CANAL.

For nearly one hundred years there was scarcely ever a session of the Virginia Legislature when the James River and Kanawha Canal was not the subject of discussion. At last the State sold the property and franchise, not being able to furnish the money necessary to repair the canal after the constantly recurring floods, which broke its banks, and having no faith in its financial ability to complete it to the Ohio.

Even had the canal been completed, as designed, it is hardly possible that it could have been maintained against railroad competition. That at any rate seems to be the condition of the Erie Canal. That great waterway has been enlarged time after time, but still more money is demanded for it. Less than ten years ago \$500,000 was spent upon it. Now \$100,000,000 is asked for it and at the election to be held in November the people of the State are to pass upon the question of authorizing that appropriation. It is no longer supposed to be possible to get the United States to take possession of it and convert it into a ship canal, and so it is proposed to deepen and widen it to make it navigable for one thousand ton barges.

It is given out that the amount named will suffice for the purpose, but there are many doubters—many who believe that such an improvement as is contemplated would cost \$200,000,000.

There is a warm canvass going on in the State of New York, and there are thousands who oppose the expenditure, but there are other thousands who advocate it and will vote for it.

The farmers are appealed to to carry it through because it will insure lasting competition with the railroads, and they are reminded of the fact that they pay very little of the State levy anyhow, that disagreeable duty falling mainly upon the cities and towns and other corporations.

New York city is appealed to to vote for a canal appropriation in order to preserve the prestige of that place as a grain shipping port. New York, be it understood, is alarmed at the growth of the grain trade of New Orleans and all other cities in this country and Canada, and many of its business men believe that its only hope is in enlarging the Erie Canal so that it may float one thousand ton barges. Other of its business men think that New York has brought this condition of affairs upon itself by reason of the heavy terminal charges exacted there.

Others attribute her trouble to railroad combinations. And so it goes, and hence it is that the canal enlargement question is an important one.

The Republicans as a party seem to favor the appropriation, and the "canal ring" that fattens upon the management, or mismanagement, of the property is of that political ilk.

Viewed from this distance, the situation seems to be that the Erie Canal is hopelessly inadequate in facilities to con-

trol the foreign grain trade, but that the country people still look upon it as affording them some measure of protection against railroad monopoly. Therefore, we should not wonder if the majority voted for the hundred million dollar appropriation, although they are warned in advance that that sum will not complete the work.

The New York Herald has received advice from Bogota that the Panama Canal treaty was rejected by the Senate because of the imperative nature of the notes received from Secretary of State Hay and United States Minister Baupres. These notes were regarded as offensive and considered highly humiliating, even by the Senators who supported the treaty without amendments and were friendly to the United States. Under the circumstances, these friendly Senators considered it incumbent upon them to vote unanimously for rejection of the treaty in order to maintain the dignity of the republic. This action of the Senate was followed by the introduction of a proposition authorizing the government to negotiate a new treaty with the United States, in which the French canal company should be left out of consideration.

It is further said that the main question now discussed is whether the United States will be willing to enter into new negotiations or let the matter drop. That does not look very promising from Colombia's point of view.

A special from Troy, Alabama, says that the evidence in the case of the United States against Marion Prestwood, a wealthy planter and turpentine operator, which was heard there on Saturday last before the Federal Commissioner, shows that poor whites as well as negroes are being held in slavery in Alabama.

There is a lesson in this for the whites. Any system which discriminates unfairly and unjustly against the negro will sooner or later be used against the whites. We have seen this in fraudulent election practices, and we have seen it to a greater or less extent in the matter of lynching. All lawlessness, no matter who the victims chance to be, is reactionary. We cannot be brutal toward the negro race without brutalizing ourselves, and when the white race becomes brutalized it will deal brutally with members of its own race as well as the members of another race. Once permit the poison system against the black man and it will surely operate to a greater or less degree against the white man.

A special from Pottsville, Pa., says that the production of 40,000 tons of anthracite coal since January 1st, fully 10,000 tons more than the average output in years, is the cause of the stagnation of the coal trade, which has resulted in lessening orders all through the region curtailing the output, and it is rumored that the price of anthracite coal in Richmond is going to advance.

Our remarks in yesterday's paper concerning Mr. Bryan and the Ohio campaign presumed that the correspondent of the Washington Post was right in saying that the Nebraska orator had cancelled his engagements in that State. But it now appears that the correspondent did not know what he was talking about.

To John Butler, a hard working man of Rockland, Me., belongs the title of champion father of the United States. He is sixty-five years old, and is the father of thirty-three children. His oldest is forty-seven and his youngest two. It is not stated how often he has been married.

A Northern newspaper recently asked Mr. Cleveland for his views on the race question, but the ex-President excused himself on the ground that he was too busy going fishing. And so the paper didn't even get a nibble.

According to William A. King, chief statistician for Vital Statistics of the Census Office, late figures negative the cry of "race suicide" in this country.

And it now turns out that the attempt on our vice-consul's life in Syria was a mere ploy.

It is too bad for the Reliance to coquet with the Shamrock III. In such a tantalizing way.

Canada wants to purchase the State of Maine. Hasn't Canada enough troubles of her own?

Good morning. Have you moved?

A Few Foreign Facts.

King Christian has conferred upon the royal servant, Hansen, the life saving medal for having rescued Princess Louise, of Schaumburg, from drowning last Tuesday.

Queen Alexandra has a favorite teapole, which is often in use when the Queen is at Sandringham. It is exceedingly curious, very old, and is said to be of priceless value.

The Dowager Empress of China has issued an edict declaring the banquets to be held only for French cooking. The French chefs thank the Boxers for this new field of labor.

Dr. Krause, the former Governor of Johannesburg, who was sentenced to London to two years' imprisonment for luring to murder, was released from Pentonville prison last Saturday morning.

General Botha and several Boer leaders are said to be interested in a gigantic South African colonization scheme. A company with a capital of \$10,000,000 has been organized for the purchase of 500,000 acres of land.

A large area of coal and petroleum has been discovered in Kootenay, B. C., near the northeast corner of Idaho and Montana, and always found in the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The harvest of this year in the Argentine Republic is unprecedented. Exact data cannot be obtained, but the best estimates show that the crop of corn (maize) will be approximately \$50,000,000, of which 100,000 will be retained for home consumption and seed.

PERSONAL.

When they speak of a politician as "running" in Missouri this year, they often mean that Folk is after him.

Secretary Shaw will be given a banquet by the National Association of Merchants at the Auditorium in Chicago, to be held on the 10th of October.

Rev. George C. Lorimer, the famous



Boston pastor, denies the report that he was contemplating the acceptance of a call to a London church. He says he will never accept a call outside of the United States.

Charles F. Gosser, of Cohasset, O., is just in receipt of three sets of handsome Bengal tiger claws from his Highness the Maharajah Chhatra Sahai, of Calcutta, India, whom the American met in Rome two years ago.

Edward Martyn of Tuilly, the author of "The Heather Field," an enthusiastic admirer of the music of Palestrina, has contributed the sum of \$5,000 for the maintenance of a choir in the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Dublin.

According to the monks of the Hospice of St. Bernard their forecasts save on an average of 20 lives over the year on the mountain.

A motor fan should be placed near an open window or other opening where it can draw fresh air. If in a corner or center of a room it simply stirs up foul air.

STATEMENT CONCERNING MR. PENICK CORRECTED

Editor Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I wish to correct a statement made by me in reference to Mr. J. W. Penick, who is a candidate for supervisor. The statement made by me was that Mr. Penick participated in the primary and then ran as an independent candidate for supervisor. The facts of the case are these, as admitted by Mr. Penick: He ran as an independent candidate against Mr. J. B. Rose for supervisor, who was the regular Democratic primary nominee. Mr. Penick was defeated.

"I was misinformed when I stated that Mr. Penick took part in either of said primaries. He did not. The statement in justice to Mr. Penick and myself.

"In this connection I wish to thank my friends and the public at large for kindnesses shown me and for the attention of the supervisor of Brookland District.

"W. C. SAUNDERS."

A Correction.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Your correspondent from Roanoke, Va., under date of the 18th instant, writes a graphic description of an attempt to wreck Norfolk and Western west-bound passenger train No. 18, on Sunday night, June 14th. The statement is absolutely correct in every particular except as to the capturing party. Baldwin's Detective Agency was in no wise connected with the arrest.

The arrest of the desperado was made by Mayor Hall, Constable Riley and six others, all of East Radford, not one of Baldwin's men being present. Capt. Penick, of the Roanoke City Police, was notified by our city officials that they might identify some of them, who were wanted for other offenses in West Virginia and Tennessee.

Of course, Baldwin's Detective Agency is doing a good and noble business, and it is the duty of every citizen to support it. But it is not the duty of the public to allow it to capture and detain without trial persons who are innocent of any crime.

Mr. J. W. Wilson took a part of the band to West Virginia last week to stand their trial.

H. T. JENKINS.

East Radford, Va., Aug. 28, 1908.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

When the subject of his successor was first mentioned Senator Martin announced that he would be a candidate for reelection, and would enter the contest on any basis that the Democratic party provided for the selection of a senator.

This was a plain and perfectly candid statement and his position is unassailable. As a candidate it is not his matter. The Democrats in convention assembled will name the method of electing a senator, and then the caucus will enter or not.

—Newport News Times-Herald.

Conversation is becoming a lost art. The telephone is making us more or less bad mannered and abrupt in our address to one another. Time is passing so quickly that we do not have time to be polite.

Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, who is having the important trials in the Virginia case, is expected to be marked by granite markers, has just purchased a gold mine on Cripple Creek, Colorado, for \$1,000,000. Ryan is a very wealthy man, and his property is valued at \$1,000,000.

The Mann liquor law was an issue in the Pittsylvania primary, the first time it has been made the issue of a primary. The law came out of the little end of the horn. But there are other counties to hear from.—Grayson Gazette.

"Cyclone" Jim Marshall will hold down a seat in the next House of Delegates, and Judge Phoglar is pretty certain to be elected by the side of George B. Bruce in the State Senate. With Marshall, Phoglar, Bruce, Byars, McNair and Gentry, a commanding position in the law-making establishment down at Richmond.

—Wide News.

An actual trial of the viva voce system of voting satiates us that it will have to be abandoned by the Democratic party as a policy. Let us go back to the mass-meetings if we cannot have a secret ballot.—Virginia Gazette.

A FAVORITE REMEDY FOR DIARRHEA THE WORLD OVER.

During the thirty years and more that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has been in use it has constantly grown in favor and popularity. In every part of the United States it is now the acknowledged standard for all bowel complaints, and is fast becoming a favorite of the world over.

The editor of a native newspaper published at Lahore, India, says: "I have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy many times among my children and servants, and it is always found to be effective."

For sale by all druggists.

ENGINEER WAS KILLED

And Fireman Was Fatally Scalded in Wreck.

THE FREIGHT TRAIN BROKE

Loose Cars Ran Back and Collided with Norfolk and Western Passenger Train—Passengers Shaken Up, but Not Hurt.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., September 1.—Engineer S. H. V. Lucas, of the incoming passenger train from Roanoke, Va., on the Norfolk and Western road, was killed at 12 o'clock today near Ridgeway, Va., and his fireman, M. Stafford, was fatally scalded and died in a few hours.

The accident was caused by freight cars breaking loose from a train running ahead of the passenger and running back into the engine pulling the latter train. The passengers were badly shaken up, but none of them were hurt.

Engineer Lucas' family live in Roanoke. He had been running on this division for ten years. His age was fifty-five years. Fireman Stafford lived here. He was married in this city last May.

KILLED THE INTRUDER.

Douglas Hainstock, colored, entered the room of a colored woman named Zell Taylor in West Winston, at 1 o'clock this morning. He refused to tell his name, and the woman gathered a big carving knife and dismembered Hainstock. He ran a block before he fell. He died today.

The girl was arrested, but Mayor Eaton says he will release her if evidence is not produced to-morrow showing that she was not justified in assaulting Hainstock.

NO DISPENSARY

Majority of Eleven Cast Against its Establishment.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

REIDSBVILLE, N. C., September 1.—The election for the establishment of a dispensary resulted in a majority of eleven against, and the distilleries were defeated by fifty-seven.

The greatest excitement has prevailed all day. Every inch of ground was hotly contested. Five people were arrested and placed under bond at the instigation of the dispensary adherents under charge of voting contrary to law.

One prominent young man who was placed in jail will bring suit against J. R. Webster, Jr., of the Reidsville Weekly, for having him imprisoned.

The campaign was one of the most notable ever conducted in the State. The two local papers, the Review and the Weekly, have opposed and favored the dispensary, respectively, and much interest was manifested in the fight by people in all parts of the State.

EX-SHERIFF IN CREDITORS' HANDS

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

GOLDSBORO, N. C., Sept. 1.—Ex-Sheriff B. F. Scott, who retired from office last December, made an assignment to-day to Mr. John W. Aycock, of Fremont, as trustee for his bondsmen and all creditors without preference and without reservation. He names in the deed of assignment all the real estate of which he is now possessed, together with all money on hand and all personal property of whatever nature. The trustee is to turn all the property to money and to pay the same to the payment of all debts which may be presented.

The State of North Carolina, it is understood, has the largest claim, which amounts to something like \$9,000. This is due from back taxes, which have not been paid for a long time. The county of Wayne and the Public School Fund in the deed of assignment, but it is said that this will amount to very little.

Mr. T. E. Yelverton, of Fremont, holds a mortgage on the real estate for \$3,000, which is well secured. The total amount of the ex-sheriff's indebtedness is something over \$10,000. He names several open accounts as follows: Yelverton Bros., of Fremont; Smith & Yelverton, of Goldsboro; \$2,500; Smith & Son, of Pilot Mountain; \$2,000; T. Hooker, of Pilot Mountain; \$200; Geo. D. Best, of Fremont; \$1,000; Masoule Lodge, of Pikeville, \$200.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The City Council to-night granted the Louisiana Eastern and Northern Railway Company an entrance way and Navigation Company an entrance way to the river at the mouth of the Mississippi. It was given the right to reach the wharves over the proposed terminal line which the New Orleans Terminal Company is obligated to build.

NEW ORLEANS, La.—The trial of the eleven directors and executive officers of the Louisiana Eastern and Northern Railway Company, North Jersey, of manslaughter in connection with the grade-crossing disaster on February 18th, was continued to-day.

PLAN TO LEASE THE N. C. RAILROAD

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

RALEIGH, N. C., September 1.—The council of State and directors on the part of the state of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad from Goldsboro to Morehead City will meet in the Governor's executive office to-morrow to consider a proposition to lease the road. The proposition was introduced and presented by J. A. and W. W. Mills, principal owners of the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railroad, and it is understood to be two per cent. interest on the stock, one condition being that the lessee shall build fifty million additional road west of Kingston.

The proposition is a serious one, and the advocates of the lease say it will put the stock on a four per cent. basis. The impression prevails that the lease will be made.

KILLED HIMSELF TO SAVE HIS ARM

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

SALISBURY, N. C., September 1.—Tom Williams, colored, and aged about thirty-five, was instantly killed on the Southern yards here Saturday night. With perfect indifference to his surroundings or the certainty of death, Williams deliberately stepped in front of an approaching passenger train and stood facing it until it struck him with terrific force, tearing his body to pieces. It is believed he was under the influence of liquor, or some other opiate, at the time. Because of a growth on one of his arms the limb was to have been amputated by the physicians Sunday, and it is thought by some that the negro committed suicide in order to avoid the operation.

The wife of Williams, of New York, is here to attend the marriage of his sister, Miss Annie, to Rev. J. F. Preston, which will be solemnized Wednesday.

The Anti-Saloon League of Salisbury is conducting a series of meetings in the tabernacle in the interest of temperance. One saloon man was heard to say that he

will join the league after the coming local option election.

John Brown will open Rowan Superior Court on Friday, the 8th instant, no court being held Monday on account of Labor Day celebration.

ALVIN S. IS DEAD

Woe Wail Found on the Profit Porch Sleeps in Shock.

Alvin S., the baby boy left of the front porch of Mr. A. J. Proffitt, Chesnut Hill, about two months ago, sleeps in the Profit section in Shockens Cemetery. The little boy, of unknown parentage, died Monday afternoon, and was buried yesterday morning. The woe wail was given every possible attention by its foster parents, and its strength gave out before relief could be secured. The poor family, which came to the infant since it was placed upon the doorstep two months ago, are deeply grieved over their loss. Their attachment for it had grown strong.

The episode aroused much interest. It was at least two months ago that a young man, Alvin S., in a new, light-colored suit and a Panama hat, and carrying a basket, was seen loitering near the Profit home, which is close by the Chesnut Hill end of the Fifth Street viaduct. Later, a basket and child were found on the Profit porch.

The child, which was a boy, and named Alvin S., was found by the child to the Profit in this manner: "My name is Alvin S.; treat me kindly. The next afternoon the same man and a stylish dressed young woman were seen in the neighborhood. Only once has anything been heard from friends of Alvin S., and a card, saying: 'Do not let Alvin S. want for anything' was received about a week ago."

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USUAL CONDITIONS

Street-Railway Situation Has Simmered Down to Normal.

The street railway situation has simmered down to usual conditions now, and at the offices of the company everything is being conducted in the usual routine. There are fewer applications for positions, now that the company has a force of men adequate for all present needs, and a large list of applicants whose names have been filed. Such new men as are put on are to fill vacancies arising from time to time.

The shingles just east of the old Vine Street have been completed, and the street cars are now run to that point, instead of to the sheds at Twenty-ninth and P Streets. There is ample trackage for the needs now.

The new cars for the suburban and some of the city lines are expected to arrive now in a week or two. They will certainly reach the city before the Horse Show, and will be put in service on the lines leading to the amphitheatre during the show to handle the crowds on that occasion.

Repairs are being made to the tracks and wires of the company at various points, and the line generally is being put in good condition.

Dredge Launched To-Day.

While the hour cannot be named, it is expected that the Benyard, United States dredge, built at the Erie Canal, will be launched to-day. The boat is not a large one and officers in charge will send